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Response to January 27, 2005 Office Action

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for notifying an offline ~~global computer network~~ user of an online ~~interaction in which the offline user could participate~~, the method comprising the steps of:

monitoring users who log in to a website;

as each user logs in, comparing specifying notification criteria of the offline user,
the notification criteria specifying a particular user that logs in to the website; and

when the particular user logs in to the website, sending a notification that the
particular user has logged in to the website, the notification initiating an offline
communication to the offline user

~~monitoring activities occurring on the global computer network;~~

~~comparing the activities to the notification criteria; and~~

~~if the activities satisfy the notification criteria;~~

~~forwarding an offline communication to the offline user, wherein the~~
~~offline communication notifies the offline user of the online interaction.~~

2. (Cancel)
3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the website ~~online interaction~~ is a chat room and the notification criteria further comprise at least one of:

a number of users logged into the chat room,

~~a particular user logs into the chat room, and~~

a request that the offline user log into the chat room, wherein the request is sent by
a user logged into the chat room.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the website ~~online interaction~~ is a game site and the notification criteria further comprise at least one of:

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a number of users logged into the game site,
~~a particular user logs into the game site, and~~
a request that the offline user log into the game site, wherein the request is sent by
a user logged into the game site.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the website online interaction is an auction site and the notification criteria comprise entry of a bid that exceeds a high bid submitted by the offline user ~~instant messaging service and the notification criteria comprise an event in which a buddy from a buddy list of the offline user logs onto the instant messaging service.~~
6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the website online interaction is an auction site and the notification criteria comprise ~~at least one of: entry of a bid that exceeds a high bid submitted by the offline user, and~~ a number of bids submitted within a certain duration.
7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, further comprising reporting the indication to another offline user ~~wherein the online interaction is a call over the global computer network and the notification criteria comprise an event in which the offline subscriber receives an unanswered call over the global computer network.~~
8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising at least one of storing wherein the step of specifying further comprises specifying contact information of the offline user, ~~and the step of forwarding comprises~~ retrieving the contact information of the offline user, and sending forwarding the offline communication to the offline user in accordance with the contact information.
9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the contact information comprises a communication device type and an address of the communication device.

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10. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the contact information comprises a plurality of communication device types of the offline user, addresses for each of the plurality of communication device types, and an order in which to attempt the plurality of communication device types.
11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 8, wherein the step of sending forwarding the offline communication comprises sending forwarding the offline communication to one of a wireline telephone, a wireless telephone, a caller identification device, a wireless access protocol device, a one-way pager, and an interactive pager.
12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
- receiving an indication ~~from the offline~~ user as to whether the offline user will log in to the website join the online interaction; and
- reporting the indication to an online user ~~users with whom the online interaction would take place~~.
13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the step of sending forwarding the offline communication comprises sending forwarding the offline communication to one of a wireline telephone and a wireless telephone,
- wherein the step of receiving the indication comprises receiving input of the offline user through an interactive voice response unit, and
- wherein the step of reporting the indication comprises transmitting the indication to the online user ~~users~~ through a ~~the~~ global computer network.
14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the step of receiving the indication comprises receiving audio input of the offline user and converting the audio input to text for transmission through the global computer network to the online user ~~users~~.

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15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein the step of receiving the indication comprises receiving audio input of the offline user, recording the audio input as in a digital audio file, and transmitting the digital audio file through the global computer network to the online user users.
16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the step of sending forwarding the offline communication comprises sending forwarding the offline communication to one of an interactive pager and a wireless access protocol device,
wherein the step of receiving the indication comprises receiving input of the offline user from the interactive pager or the wireless access protocol device, and
wherein the step of reporting the indication comprises transmitting the indication to the online user users through the global computer network.
17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the input comprises one of a standard message and a customized message.
18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the notification comprises offline communication states the notification criteria, ~~states that the notification criteria has been satisfied, and states a time and a date that the notification criteria was satisfied.~~
19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of requiring the offline user to provide a passcode before forwarding the offline communication.
20. (Currently Amended) A computer system ~~for~~ providing notification of an online interaction occurring on a global computer network, the computer system performing the steps of comprising:

monitoring users who log in to a website;

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as each user logs in, comparing notification criteria of an offline user, the notification criteria specifying a particular user that logs in to the website; and

when the particular user logs in to the website, sending a notification that the particular user has logged in to the website, the notification initiating an offline communication to the offline user

~~(a) — a plurality of network users, wherein the plurality of network users performs activities on the global computer network related to the online interaction;~~

~~(b) — an offline global computer network user; and~~

~~(c) — a service provider in communication with the plurality of network users and the offline global computer network user,~~

~~wherein the service provider is in communication with the plurality of network users through the global computer network;~~

~~wherein the service provider has a communication interface through which the service provider is in communication with the offline global computer network user;~~

~~wherein the service provider is adapted to monitor the activities of the plurality of network users;~~

~~wherein the service provider is adapted to compare the activities to criteria for notifying the offline global computer network user of the online interaction; and~~

~~wherein the service provider is adapted to notify the offline global computer network user through the communication interface if the activities satisfy the criteria.~~

21. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 20, wherein the website is a chat room and the notification criteria further comprise at least one of i) a number of users logged into the chat room and ii) a request that the offline user log into the chat room, wherein the request is sent by a user logged into the chat room ~~communication interface~~ is adapted to notify the offline global computer network user through one of a wireline telephone, a wireless telephone, a caller identification device, a wireless access protocol device, a one-way pager, and an interactive pager.

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22. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 20, wherein the website is a game site and the notification criteria further comprise at least one of i) a number of users logged into the game site and ii) a request that the offline user log into the game site, wherein the request is sent by a user logged into the game site ~~service provider is adapted to receive a response from the offline global computer network user, and to transmit the response to at least one of the plurality of network users.~~
23. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 20, wherein the website is an auction site and the notification criteria comprise entry of a bid that exceeds a high bid submitted by the offline user ~~communication interface is adapted to notify the offline global computer network user through one of a wireline telephone and a wireless telephone, wherein the communication interface includes an interactive voice response unit with which to receive a response from the offline global computer network user, and wherein the service provider is adapted to transmit the response to at least one of the plurality of network users.~~
24. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 20, wherein the computer further performs at least one of the following steps: i) storing contact information of the offline user, ii) retrieving the contact information of the offline user, and iii) sending the offline communication to the offline user in accordance with the contact information ~~activities comprise at least one of chat room activity, game site activity, instant messaging activity, auction activity, and activity related to calls over the global computer network.~~
25. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 20 24, wherein the contact information comprises a communication device type and an address of the communication device ~~criteria comprise one of:~~
- ~~a number of users logged into one of a chat room and a game site,~~
 - ~~a particular user logs into one of a chat room and a game site,~~
 - ~~a request that the offline global computer network user log into one of a chat room and a game site,~~

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~~an event in which a buddy from a buddy list of the offline global computer network user logs onto an instant messaging service,~~
~~entry of an auction bid that exceeds a high bid submitted by the offline global computer network user,~~
~~a number of bids submitted to an auction within a certain duration, and~~
~~an event in which the offline subscriber receives an unanswered call over the global computer network.~~

26. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 20 24, wherein the contact information comprises a plurality of communication device types of the offline user, addresses for each of the plurality of communication device types, and an order in which to attempt the plurality of communication device types further comprising a database accessible to the service provider, wherein the database contains the criteria.
27. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 26 24, wherein the step of sending the offline communication comprises sending the offline communication to one of a wireline telephone, a wireless telephone, a caller identification device, a wireless access protocol device, a one-way pager, and an interactive pager database contains contact information defining how to notify the offline global computer network user.
28. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 27 20, wherein the contact information comprises a communication device type and an address of the communication device computer further performs the following steps:
- receiving an indication f as to whether the offline user will log in to the website;
and
reporting the indication to an online user.

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29. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 26 24, wherein the step of sending the offline communication comprises sending the offline communication to one of a wireline telephone and a wireless telephone,
wherein the step of receiving the indication comprises receiving input of the offline user through an interactive voice response unit, and
wherein the step of reporting the indication comprises transmitting the indication to the online user through a global computer network database contains a passeeode that the offline global computer network user must provide to receive the notification.
30. (Currently Amended) A system for providing notification of an online interaction occurring on a global computer network, the system comprising performing the steps of:
monitoring users who log in to a website;
as each user logs in, comparing notification criteria of an offline user, the notification criteria specifying a particular user that logs in to the website; and
when the particular user logs in to the website, sending an offline communication to the offline user, the offline communication notifying the offline user that the particular user has logged in to the website

(a) ~~an offline global computer network user;~~
(b) ~~a plurality of network users in communication with the global computer network;~~
(c) ~~a site in communication with the plurality of network users through the global computer network;~~
wherein the plurality of network users perform activities related to the online interaction on the site;
wherein the site is adapted to monitor the activities of the plurality of network users; and
wherein the site is adapted to compare the activities to criteria for notifying the offline global computer network user of an online interaction; and

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~~(d) — a service provider in communication with the site and the offline global computer network user;~~

~~wherein the service provider is in communication with the site through the global computer network;~~

~~wherein the service provider has a communication interface through which the service provider is in communication with the offline global computer network user; and~~

~~wherein the site is adapted to notify the service provider if the activities satisfy the criteria in response to which the service provider is adapted to notify the offline global computer network user through the communication interface.~~

31. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 30, wherein the website is a chat room and the notification criteria further comprise at least one of i) a number of users logged into the chat room and ii) a request that the offline user log into the chat room, wherein the request is sent by a user logged into the chat room further comprising a database accessible to the site, wherein the database contains the criteria.
32. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~31~~ 30, wherein the website is a game site and the notification criteria further comprise at least one of i) a number of users logged into the game site and ii) a request that the offline user log into the game site, wherein the request is sent by a user logged into the game site database contains contact information of the offline global computer network user, and wherein the site passes the contact information to the service provider.
33. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~31~~ 30, wherein the website is an auction site and the notification criteria comprise entry of a bid that exceeds a high bid submitted by the offline user further comprising a second database accessible to the service provider, wherein the second database contains contact information of the offline global computer network user.

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34. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 30, wherein the system further performs at least one of the following steps: i) storing contact information of the offline user, ii) retrieving the contact information of the offline user, and iii) sending the offline communication to the offline user in accordance with the contact information ~~communication interface is adapted to notify the offline global computer network user through one of a wireline telephone, a wireless telephone, a caller identification device, a wireless access protocol device, a one-way pager, and an interactive pager.~~
35. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 30 34, wherein the contact information comprises a communication device type and an address of the communication device ~~service provider is adapted to receive a response from the offline global computer network user, and to transmit the response to at least one of the plurality of network users.~~
36. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 30 34, wherein the contact information comprises a plurality of communication device types of the offline user, addresses for each of the plurality of communication device types, and an order in which to attempt the plurality of communication device types ~~communication interface is adapted to notify the offline global computer network user through one of a wireline telephone and a wireless telephone;~~
~~wherein the communication interface includes an interactive voice response unit with which to receive a response from the offline global computer network user, and~~
~~wherein the service provider is adapted to transmit the response to at least one of the plurality of network users.~~
37. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 30 34, wherein the step of sending the offline communication comprises sending the offline communication to one of a wireline telephone, a wireless telephone, a caller identification device, a wireless access protocol device, a one-way pager, and an interactive pager ~~activities comprise at least one of chat room activity, game site activity, instant messaging activity, auction activity, and activity related to calls over the global computer network.~~

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38. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 30, wherein the system further performs the following steps:

receiving an indication from the offline user as to whether the offline user will log in to the website; and

reporting the indication to an online user

~~criteria comprise one of:~~

~~a number of users logged into one of a chat room and a game site;~~

~~a particular user logs into one of a chat room and a game site;~~

~~a request that the offline global computer network user log into one of a chat room and a game site;~~

~~an event in which a buddy from a buddy list of the offline global computer network user logs onto an instant messaging service;~~

~~entry of an auction bid that exceeds a high bid submitted by the offline global computer network user;~~

~~a number of bids submitted to an auction within a certain duration; and~~

~~an event in which the offline subscriber receives an unanswered call over the global computer network.~~

39. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 30 38, wherein the step of sending the offline communication comprises sending the offline communication to one of a wireline telephone and a wireless telephone,

wherein the step of receiving the indication comprises receiving input of the offline user through an interactive voice response unit, and

wherein the step of reporting the indication comprises transmitting the indication to the online user through a global computer network

~~further comprising a plurality of offline global computer network users;~~

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~~wherein the service provider is in communication with the plurality of offline global computer network users through the communication interface;~~

~~wherein the site contains a list of subscribers who want to receive the notification of the online interaction, wherein the subscribers are part of the plurality of offline global computer network users;~~

~~wherein the criteria comprises a request from the plurality of network users for at least one of the subscribers to log onto the site, and~~

~~wherein the service provider is adapted to notify the at least one of the subscribers through the communication interface.~~

40. (Currently Amended) A system for notifying an offline ~~global computer network~~ user of an online interaction ~~in which the offline user could participate~~, the system comprising:

- (a) a means for retrieving specifying notification criteria of the offline user, the notification criteria specifying a particular user that logs in to a website;
- (b) a means for monitoring users who log in to the website activities occurring on the global computer network;
- (c) a means for comparing the logged in users activities to the notification criteria; and
- (d) a means for sending a notification that the particular user has logged in to the website, the notification initiating an offline communication to the offline user forwarding an offline communication to the offline user, wherein the offline communication notifies the offline user of the online interaction.

41. (Currently Amended) The system method of claim 40, wherein the website online interaction is one of a chat room, a game site, an ~~instant messaging service~~, and an auction, ~~and a call made over the global computer network.~~

42. (Currently Amended) A method for notifying an offline ~~global computer network~~ user of an interaction in which the offline user could participate, wherein the interaction occurs

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on a website ~~global computer network site that facilitates real time online interactions between two or more users~~, the method comprising the steps of:

retrieving ~~establishing~~ conditions under which to notify the offline user, the conditions specifying a particular user that logs in to the website;

monitoring activities on the site ~~users who log in to the website;~~

comparing the logged in users activities to the conditions; and

if the activities satisfy the conditions, sending a notification that the particular user has logged in to the website, the notification initiating an offline communication to the offline user ~~notifying the offline user via an offline communication of the interaction.~~

43. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 42, wherein the website is one of a chat site, a game site, and an auction site.
44. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 42, ~~wherein the global computer network is the Internet~~ further comprising at least one of the following steps: i) storing contact information of the offline user, ii) retrieving the contact information of the offline user, and iii) sending the offline communication to the offline user in accordance with the contact information.
45. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 42, wherein the conditions ~~are~~ further comprise one of:
- when the number of users logged into the site exceed a preset amount,
~~when a particular user logs into the site, and~~
when a user logged into the site requests that the offline user log into the site.
46. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 42 ~~44~~, wherein the offline communication is one of a wireline telephone call, a wireless telephone call, a message sent to a caller

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identification device, a message sent to a wireless access protocol device, a message sent to a one-way pager, and a message sent to an interactive pager.

47. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 42, further comprising the steps of:

receiving an indication ~~from the offline user~~ as to whether the offline user will join the interaction; and

reporting the indication to users logged into the website.

48. (Currently Amended) A method for notifying an offline ~~global computer network~~ user of an interaction in which the offline user could participate, wherein the interaction occurs on an instant messaging service, the method comprising the steps of:

associating a group of users with the offline user;

monitoring whether a particular user logs ~~users of the group of users log~~ into the instant messaging service;

if a the particular user ~~of the group users~~ logs into the instant messaging service, then sending a notification that the particular user has logged in to the instant messaging service, the notification initiating an offline communication to the offline user notifying the offline user via an offline communication of the interaction with the user;

receiving an indication as to whether the offline user will join the instant messaging service; and

reporting the indication to users logged into the instant messaging service.

49. (Cancel)

50. (Cancel)

51. (Currently Amended) A method for notifying an offline ~~global computer network~~ user of activities occurring on an auction website, the method comprising the steps of:

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~~retrieving~~ ~~establishing~~ conditions under which to notify the offline user, the conditions specifying a particular user that logs in to the auction website;

monitoring ~~the activities on the~~ users who log in to the auction website;

comparing ~~the activities~~ logged in users to the conditions; and

if the activities satisfy the conditions, sending a notification that the particular user has logged in to the auction website, the notification initiating an offline communication to the offline user ~~notifying the offline user of the activities via one of a telephone and a caller identification device.~~

52. (Original) The method of claim 51, wherein the conditions are one of:

when a bid is entered that exceeds a high bid of the offline user, and

when the number of bids entered with a duration exceeds a preset amount.

53. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 51, further comprising the steps of:

receiving an indication ~~from the offline user~~ as to whether the offline user will log onto the auction website ~~and participate in the activities;~~ and

reporting the indication to a user ~~users~~ logged into the auction website.

54. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 51, further comprising the step of ~~steps of~~:

~~receiving a high bid from the offline user via the one of a telephone and a caller identification device; and~~

reporting ~~the a high bid from the offline user~~ a high bid from the offline user to users logged into the auction website.

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55. (Currently Amended) A method for notifying ~~an offline global computer network~~ a user of a call over a global computer network to the ~~offline~~ user, the method comprising the steps of:

monitoring ~~the global computer network~~ for calls to a the network address of the ~~offline~~ user; and

if a call from a calling party to the network address is unanswered, notifying the ~~offline~~ user of the unanswered call via an offline communication;

receiving an indication from the user as to whether the user will accept the call to the network address; and

reporting the indication to the calling party.

56. (Original) The method of claim 55, wherein the offline communication is one of a wireline telephone call, a wireless telephone call, a message sent to a caller identification device, a message sent to a wireless access protocol device, a message sent to a one-way pager, and a message sent to an interactive pager.

57. (Cancel)